

In the Specification:

Please amend the paragraph at lines 25-31 of page 10 to read as follows:

In one embodiment, electrodes 720a and 720b can be grouped to form an electrode pair 770a, with each electrode 720a and 720b coupled to an opposite terminal of a current supply 121 (Figure 3). The electrodes 720a and 720b can have an elongated or strip-type shape and can be arranged to extend parallel to each other over the diameter of the substrate 110. The spacing between adjacent electrodes of an electrode pair 770 can be selected to direct the electrical current into the substrate 110, as described above with reference to Figure 3.

In the Claims:

Please cancel claims 1, 2, 5, 13, 14, 16-18, 23, 26, 29-31, 39-42, 49, 50, 61-63, 66, 67, 74 and 75. Please amend claims 3, 6-9, 22, 24, 25, 32, 52, 53, 55, 56, 68 and 69 as follows:

1. (Cancelled)

2. (Cancelled)

Sub C1
1. (Amended) A method for removing an electrically conductive material from a microelectronic substrate, comprising:

selecting first and second conductive electrodes to have a combined surface area facing toward a surface of the microelectronic substrate that is less than the area of the surface of the microelectronic substrate;

positioning the first conductive electrode proximate to the microelectronic substrate;

positioning the second conductive electrode proximate to the microelectronic substrate and spaced apart from the first conductive electrode;

removing the conductive material from the microelectronic substrate by passing a varying current through the first and second electrodes while the first and second